

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Representative Francesca Hong: 10 years ago, Wisconsin Republicans declared war on the people of Wisconsin — we must repeal the divisive Act 10.

MADISON - It is the 10-year anniversary of the Scott Walker Administration's decision to forever destroy bipartisanship and unity in Wisconsin, which saw the enactment of 2011 Wisconsin Act 10. This law targeted only the Governor's political opponents, by eliminating the collective bargaining rights for most public-sector workers and permanently cut the paychecks of thousands of Wisconsin workers. This legislation made Wisconsin a national embarrassment and what's worse, set back families, singles, educators, and students throughout the state.

Representative Hong (D-76) released the following statement:

"A broad coalition of Wisconsinites understands that Act 10 was a grievous mistake. The people of the 76th District elected me to speak truth and to bring common sense back to the legislature. That is why we must pay workers what they deserve and build wide public support for the repeal of Act 10. With the current makeup of the legislature, we must also fight for incremental progress and advancing workers' rights whenever and wherever possible. The right to bargain over a contract is something that Wisconsin's small businesses do every day. And yet, the law has refused to allow many workers the same liberty.

Many of our state workers who are on the frontline of this pandemic are making less money today than they were years ago because of this law. We refer to essential workers, but we do not treat them as such. Enough is enough.

Our commitment to public workers, educators and staff must therefore not end at boilerplate support for rolling back Act 10. We must also find new ways to build coalitions not only within the legislature, but by reaching out to voters, educating the public, and making strong and principled arguments for labor protections.

The well-being of our unions, workers and educators is the well-being of our children, state and democracy. Today marks the renewal of the fight for what's right."

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